THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Samples of "Amul Gold" Brand Milk marketed by M/s Mehsana Distt. Cooperative Milk Producers Ltd., Mehsana and Madhusudan Brand Milk marketed by M/s Creamy Foods Ltd., 80 Km. Stone, GT Karnal Road, Village Bartoli Khurja, Distt-Bulandshar U.P. have recently been found to be non conforming to food standards. Action has been taken initiated by Government of NCT of Delhi as per rules.

Liver transplantation in the country

†3761. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is far behind to other developed countries in case of liver transplantation, despite remarkable progress made in different fields of medicine;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering any special action plan for facilitating liver transplantation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. As reported by ICMR, well-developed facilities for liver transplantation are inadequate in India where at least two lakh people die annually from liver failure.

(b) and (c) The Government is in the process of consulting all stake holders before arriving at a plan for encouraging cadaver organ retrieval (that would include liver retrieval also).

Ensuring the quality of medicines

†3762. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for the provision of regulation of quality of medicines manufactured in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the number of cases of violation of this provision found during the last three years;

(c) the names of the manufacturers of medicines who have been found guilty and the actions taken against them; and

(d) the details of success of the arrangement made to ensure the provision of regulation of medicine quality and its constant monitoring?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) In order to regulate the quality of medicines manufactured in the country, appropriate provisions and requirements have been prescribed under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Rules made thereunder, as amended from time to time. This includes laying down quality standards and minimum requirements for undertaking manufacture of drugs including requirements of Good Manufacturing Practices(GMP), inspection of manufacturing units to ascertain the status of their compliance to GMP and monitoring of quality by random sampling of drugs from the manufacturers as well as from the market.

The provisions related to manufacture and sale of medicines in the country are enforced by State Governments through their respective Drugs Control Organisations. The respective State Licensing Authorities may initiate appropriate action in respect of violation of various provisions depending upon nature and severity of such violations.

A data bank of all such possible violations and actions taken by concerned licensing authorities is not maintained by the Central Government.

The provision of Good Manufacturing Practices under Schedule M of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules has been amended in order to provide for stricter requirements to ensure improved Quality Assurance by manufacturers throughout the country. Workshops and training programmes have been arranged both for the regulatory officials and the technical staff of manufacturing firms to enable adequate understanding of the revised requirement of Good Manufacturing Practices and their appropriate implementation. The State authorities have started enforcing the revised GMP requirements from July, 2005.

The Central Government is providing substantial assistance to State Governments in terms of modern testing equipments, buildings and consumables etc. to augment the testing facilities of their Drug Testing Laboratories in order to enhance the quality monitoring capacities in the country.

India-USA Joint Venture to Curb AIDS

3763. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and USA signed an agreement during U.S. President's visit to India to jointly work to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS by exploring all possible avenues including expanding drug approval process at the US FDA and strengthening bilateral cooperation to fight disease globally;

(b) if so, whether both countries agreed that participation by the corporate sector would help combating the disease;

(c) if so, whether a joint Indo-US Corporate Fund was set up;

(d) whether latest figures show that 5.21 million adults in India are living with HIV which was 5.13 million in 2004; and

(e) the steps taken to implement the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) During the visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh to the United States of America in July, 2005, a statement was issued that committed the two countries to jointly work to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS and strengthening bilateral cooperation to fight this disease globally. As a result of this commitment, Indian Pharmaceutical companies have since received FDA approval for 14 generic drugs. Further, in accordance with the agreement, a joint Indo-US Corporate Fund has been established through ICICI Bank and with GIVE Foundation. All implementation structures for this fund are being worked out. The Indo-US Corporate Fund will receive contributions from both Indian and US businesses. To date, pledges amounting to over one million dollars has been made by six companies.